

Youth Council Conference Call Meeting Minutes September 23, 2015

Welcome & Introductions

Committee Chair Dr. Linda Clark welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:10 am. Dr. Clark asked Eric White of the Idaho Department of Labor to call the roll for the council members. Roll call reflected the following: Linda Clark, Chair (present), Lori Lodge (absent), Carl Powell (absent), Michelle Woods (absent), Arantza Zabala (present), Adrian SanMiguel (absent), Arielle Horan (present), and Blossom Johnston (present) Andy Rodriguez (present), Byron Yankey (absent), Laurie Anderson (present).

Dr. Clark welcomed the newest members of the council – Andy Rodriguez, Byron Yankey, and Laurie Anderson. All three were added to the council since the last meeting on July 7. Andy Rodriguez and Laurie Anderson introduced themselves to the group. Andy is with the Nampa Housing Authority and a member of the Idaho Juvenile Justice Commission advisory group. Laurie Anderson is the manager of K-12 Programs at Micron Technology Foundation.

Dr. Clark asked if everyone had an opportunity to review the minutes from the last meeting and opened the floor for discussion before requesting a motion to approve the minutes. Blossom Johnston moved to approve the minutes and Andy Rodriguez seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Service Priority Groups for WIOA Youth Program.

Dr. Clark explained that since the last meeting, and based on the Youth Council's recommendation, the Workforce Development Council (WDC) authorized the state youth program to follow the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act's (WIOA) directives to ensure that 75 percent of the state's youth funding allocation be applied towards out-of-school youth and that the age eligibility requirements for the out-of-school youth change from 14-21 to 16-24 years of age. The primary task at this meeting is to establish priority groups under the new design framework for WIOA programs.

Under WIA, the state workforce development council had focused on serving six groups of hard-to-serve youth: youth who are involved with the juvenile justice system; youth exiting foster care; pregnant and parenting teens; youth with disabilities; out-of-school youth; and in-school youth who are in alternative high schools or enrolled in programs leveraging Carl Perkins and/or local technical education funds. Dr. Clark noted that group prioritization does not mean that Idaho only provide services to these populations. Rather, programs should target their efforts to recruit these youth but not to the exclusion of all others.

To determine how the state can best utilize its resources in the coming years, the Youth Council must decide how to apply decreasing WIOA funding. Dr. Clark directed the council's attention to transmittal #1, including staff recommendations for service priorities and employment and demographic data for youth programs at the state and local level. Dr. Clark asked Rico Barrera of the Idaho Department of Labor to review the transmittal and attached data with the council.

Review Statewide Youth Provider Data –Comparison to WIA Data

Rico Barrera explained there have been significant changes in WIOA requirements regarding allocation to out-of-school youth. WIOA requires 75% of state youth funding be directed to out-of-school youth, up from 30% under WIA. This has posed problems for many states, but in 2008 the Idaho Workforce Development Council decided to allocate 70% of youth resources to out-of-school youth.

Mr. Barrera also explained that meeting program funding requirements does not necessarily mean that any individual student's training request would be appropriate or approved. States are allowed to structure WIOA allocation programs as they see fit and may limit funding requirements beyond the WIOA requirements.

Mr. Barrera explained Transmittal 1's data attachments:

- Attachment 1 – WIOA participant eligibility criteria. This attachment includes an explanation of how Idaho determines out-of-school youth as opposed to in-school youth (p.4) and provides state service statistics for established barrier groups for PY 07-14 (p.5).
- Attachment 2 – 2005 youth program eligibility criteria, designed to expand eligibility.
- Attachment 3 – Employment labor force status by ethnicity, race, gender, and age groups 16-19 and 20-24. Mr. Barrera noted unemployment rates for minority groups are large and often do not change as age range increases. Unemployment for some minority groups nearly doubles the rate of the total population.
- Attachment 4 – Youth program enrollment numbers broken down by gender, age, ethnicity, and demographics.
- Attachment 5 – U.S. Census Bureau and U.S. Department of Education employment, education, poverty data by race and barrier group status. Dr. Clark noted that not all states have previously used the same measure for on-time completion of high school. Idaho has only used the federal cohort measure for one year and the measure will likely be changed again in the future.
- Attachment 6 – Youth program expenditures and youth services by region for PY 08-13.
- Attachment 7 – Consolidated data from youth providers in Idaho. This includes total points of service not number served because students may be served by more than one program.
- Attachment 8 – Employment, graduation, and wage data for in-school youth served by youth programs over the past two years.
- Attachment 9 – Funding estimates for PY 16. In PY15 youth services received \$3.1 million. In PY16 the allocation is projected to be \$2.79 million, a reduction of 12.4%. This estimate is based on projected federal allocations and Idaho unemployment rates.

Review Statewide Youth Employment Data

Rico Barrera discussed the Idaho Youth Population Labor Force Poverty and Performance Data document provided to attendees. The file included employment data broken down by race, ethnicity, region, and age; youth poverty data by age group and race/ethnicity; and WIA performance data for PY 13-14 and Py14-15.

Council members discussed the use of federal poverty measures in Idaho. Some members believe federal guidelines may be too high for Idaho due to the growing numbers of Idahoans meeting federal poverty guidelines and the decreased funding available for youth services. WIOA guidelines do not restrict states from implementing guidelines that are more stringent than federal requirements.

Review Select 2013 & 2014 Regional Youth Data – Population, Gender, Ethnicity, Labor Force and Poverty

Dr. Clark submitted the following proposal and opened the table for discussion:

Idaho Youth Council submits to the Idaho Workforce Development Council the following recommended changes to the state's youth program for implementation during the WIOA 2016 Program Year:

- A) Establish youth service priorities for the following youth groups:
- Youth involved with the juvenile justice system;

- Youth exiting foster care;
- Youth pregnant and parenting;
- Youth with disabilities; and
- Youth who are low-income.

B) Have program enrollment and participation reflect the incidence of population in the areas where programs operate.

C) Focus WIOA youth program services exclusively to out-of-school youth throughout the state.

Blossom Johnston suggested that the list of service priorities should be limited further due to decreasing funding and increasing number of youth in poverty. She suggested amending the motion by reducing the number of priorities and adding low income to each remaining priority group.

Arielle Horan expressed concerned that, in some areas of Idaho, limiting service to these priority groups would prevent access. Other members remarked that funding properties are not exclusionary and in these areas the eligibility could be opened to the full WIOA eligibility population. Andy Rodriguez expressed concern that youth in poverty would no longer be a priority group for services and this could exclude potential participants. Other member shared Mr. Rodriguez's concern, but noted resources are too scarce to include low income youth as a separate priority group.

Blossom Johnston forwarded the motioned that the Idaho Youth Council submits to the Idaho Workforce Development Council the preceding recommendation with the following amendment to portion A:

- A) Establish youth service priorities for the following youth groups:
- Low income youth involved with the juvenile justice system;
 - Low income youth exiting foster care;
 - Low income youth pregnant and parenting;
 - Low income youth with disabilities.

Andy Rodriguez seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote with one member abstaining.

New/Additional Business

Dr. Clark asked for recommendation on meeting dates and suggested Wednesday, October 28th. Rico Barrera will be sending out information soon to facilitate a discussion of WIOA program services. An email invitation will be sent several weeks before the meeting date.

Adjournment

Chair Clark made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded Andy Rodriguez and the meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.

Attendance: Idaho Department of Labor Staff – Rico Barrera, Sue Simmons Marsha Wright, Cheryl Foster, and Eric White